

2021 WD of VA BANKRUPTCY CONFERENCE: SPEAKER BIOS

Mark Ames is a Managing Partner in Taxing Authority Consulting Services, P.C. and supervises the Firm's Bankruptcy Department. Mark began his practice representing banks, credit unions and private concerns in commercial and business litigation. In 1994, he joined the Compliance Division of the Virginia Department of Taxation where he represented the Department in bankruptcy proceedings. He later joined the Department of Taxation, Office of Tax Policy, where, in addition to his work with sales and income tax appeals, he had a major role in the creation of an administrative appeals process for local tax assessments and the drafting of the 1997 Guidelines for the Business, Professional and Occupational License Tax. Mark along with Jeffrey Scharf founded Taxing Authority Consulting Services, P.C. in 2006. The Firm exclusively represents Virginia government entities in real estate tax litigation other tax collection matters. The Firm has handled bankruptcy matters on behalf of the Virginia Department of Taxation since 2006.

Paula Beran is a founding member of Tavenner & Beran, PLC in Richmond, VA, where she represents trustees, committees, creditors and debtors in every aspect of business bankruptcies, and trustees and creditors in consumer bankruptcies. She also serves as Chapter 11 Standing Subchapter V Trustee in the Eastern and Western Districts of Virginia. In addition Paula has been appointed as receiver for state court matters and is an approved receiver for the Virginia State Bar. She also has been assigned as-Amicus Counsel for the Fourth Circuit Court of Appeals on bankruptcy issues which have resulted in reported decisions. Before entering private practice Paula clerked for the Honorable Douglas O. Tice Jr. She is ranked in Chambers USA in Bankruptcy/Restructuring; an AV® Peer Review Rated attorney by Martindale-Hubbell and has been recognized in the bankruptcy/creditors' rights field in numerous publications, including the current edition of Best Lawyers in America, Virginia Super Lawyers, and Virginia Business Magazine. She recently was selected as a Fellow in the American College of Bankruptcy and frequently presents on bankruptcy topics at the local, regional and national level. Paula also is a volunteer presenter in schools for Credit Abuse Resistance Education.

Herbert L. Beskin practiced consumer bankruptcy law for 25 years in Charlottesville before being appointed a Chapter 13 Bankruptcy Trustee for the Western District of Virginia in 2003. He has been a Virginia CLE lecturer since 1993, has written articles for The Virginia Lawyer and the National Association of Chapter 13 Trustees website, and has taught law related courses at both the University of Virginia and Piedmont Virginia Community College. From 1991 to 1997 he served on the Board of Governors of the Bankruptcy Law Section of the Virginia State Bar. He co-authored two chapters of the Virginia CLE publication Bankruptcy Practice in Virginia: Chapter 7 practice in the 1st edition with Douglas Little, and Chapter 13 practice in the

2nd and 3rd editions with Judge Rebecca Connelly. He is a past member of the Board of Directors of the National Association of Chapter 13 Trustees.

The Honorable Paul Black, Chief Judge of the Bankruptcy Court for the Western District of Virginia, was appointed in 2014. A native of Roanoke, Virginia, Judge Black received his undergraduate degree from Washington and Lee University in 1982, studied at Cambridge University in England, and received his law degree from the University of Richmond in 1985. He then served as law clerk to the Honorable Blackwell N. Shelley, United States Bankruptcy Judge for the Eastern District of Virginia. After practicing law in Richmond for several years, he returned to Roanoke where he was a member of the regional firm of Spilman Thomas & Battle, PLLC. At Spilman, he was co-chair of the Bankruptcy and Creditor's Rights practice group, and his practice focused on commercial litigation, bankruptcy, and banking and finance law. In private practice, he was named to *Best Lawyers* in multiple areas related to finance and insolvency, to Virginia's "Legal Elite" by *Virginia Business* magazine in both Civil Litigation and Bankruptcy Law, and as a Virginia *SuperLawyer* in the field of Bankruptcy Law. For many years, he was an active participant in the Boyd-Graves Conference of the Virginia Bar Association, which studies and makes recommendations to the Virginia legislature on improvements to civil practice in Virginia. Judge Black was past chair of the Litigation Section of the Virginia State Bar, and also chair of the Bankruptcy Section of the Virginia Bar Association. He served as a member of the Virginia State Bar Disciplinary Board from 2007-2013. Judge Black is a frequent speaker to insolvency professionals on matters pertaining to bankruptcy, litigation, and ethics.

William E. Callahan, Jr. is a partner in the firm of Gentry Locke Rakes & Moore, LLP in their Roanoke, Virginia office. His practice focuses exclusively on bankruptcy and creditors rights. He received undergraduate degree with honors from the University of Virginia and his law degree magna cum laude from the Washington and Lee University School of Law where he served on the Washington and Lee Law Review and received the Order of the Coif. Mr. Callahan has been a member of the panel of Chapter 7 Trustees for the Western District of Virginia since 1999 and is also a member of the panel of the Subchapter V Trustees. He has been recognized as one of the Best Lawyers in America since 2010 and as a Virginia Super Lawyer since 2012.

The Honorable Rebecca B. Connelly, Judge Bankruptcy Court for the Western District of Virginia, was appointed in July 2012. She is a former Standing Chapter 13 Trustee and Chapter 12 Trustee for the Western District of Virginia. She has been a frequent speaker and author for Virginia Continuing Legal Education programs and publications. Judge Connelly serves on the Board for CARE.

David Cox is the founding member of Cox Law Group and practices bankruptcy law throughout the Western District of Virginia. Prior to entering private practice, David served as a law clerk for the late Hon. William E. Anderson. He co-edited the treatise, *Bankruptcy Practice in Virginia*, coauthored the fourth edition of the American Bankruptcy Institute's book, *Consumer Bankruptcy: Fundamentals of Chapter 7 and Chapter 13 of the U.S. Bankruptcy Code*, and has lectured at numerous regional and national CLE programs. David is a permanent member of

the Fourth Circuit Judicial Conference, a Fellow of the American College of Bankruptcy, and serves on the Board of the American Bankruptcy Institute.

Margaret K. Garber has been with the Roanoke Office of the United States Trustee Program since 1998 and has served as the Assistant United States Trustee since August of 2014. During those years, she has brought myriad civil enforcement actions including motions to dismiss, objections to discharge, motions to sanction and motion to review attorney's fees and/or bar attorneys from practice. Ms. Garber has also actively participated and testified in criminal actions referred by the Roanoke office to the United States Attorney's Office for prosecution. Ms. Garber received her undergraduate degree from the College of William and Mary. She graduated *with distinction* from the Emory University School of Law. While in law school, Ms. Garber's law review article was published in the Bankruptcy Developments Journal on which she served as Associate Editor. After law school, prior to joining the United States Trustee Program, Ms. Garber practiced bankruptcy law and commercial litigation with a firm in Roanoke, Virginia.

Malissa Lambert Giles is a member of the firm of Giles & Lambert, PC, in Roanoke, Virginia, with additional offices in Blacksburg and Martinsville. She and the firm, which was formed in 1993, limit their current practice to the areas of bankruptcy, focusing on debtors' rights and consumer law. She has taught at numerous bankruptcy and consumer seminars including the Mid-Atlantic Institute on Bankruptcy and Reorganization, the ABI's Spring Nuts and Bolts Seminar, Annual State wide Legal Aid Conference, the Virginia State Bar's First Day in Practice Seminar, the VBA's Bankruptcy Law Seminar, the VSB's Basic Bankruptcy Seminar and other bankruptcy seminars for VCLE/VSB. She has served as editor of the *Bankruptcy Law News*, and has served as chair of the Board of the Virginia State Bar's Bankruptcy Section.

Hannah White Hutman is a partner at Hoover Penrod, PLC in Harrisonburg, Virginia. Her practice focuses on representing both creditors and debtors in bankruptcy proceedings under Chapters 7, 11, 12, and 13 and insolvency related matters. In addition, Hannah has represented national and regional banks in collection matters, including restructuring obligations, asset liquidations and dispositions, and foreclosures. Hannah is a member of the panel of Chapter 7 Trustees for the Western District of Virginia. She currently serves as a member of the Board of Governors of the Bankruptcy Law Section for the Virginia State Bar. She received her J.D. from the Marshall Wythe School of Law at the College of William and Mary in Williamsburg, Virginia and her B.A , *summa cum laude*, from Columbia Union College in Takoma Park, Maryland.

Rachel Jones has worked as Christopher Micale's Staff Attorney since 2018. Previously, she worked at Southwest Virginia Legal Aid Society from 2006 to 2018. During her time at Legal

Aid, she was a Staff Attorney focusing on housing and consumer law issues and later became Managing Attorney in 2016. She has been a Virginia CLE lecturer on Federal housing and consumer law issues since 2010 and has written several articles for bankruptcy related publications. She is a member of the Virginia State Bar Bankruptcy Board of Governors. Rachel received her B.A. from American University in Washington D.C. in 2001 and her J.D. from Syracuse University College of Law in 2006.

Chris Micale was appointed Chapter 13 Trustee as of June 2012. Prior to serving as a Chapter 13 Trustee he represented a bankruptcy trustee, worked as a project manager for a software company and as a paralegal for a bankruptcy trustee.

Kathryn R. Montgomery has served as the Assistant United States Trustee of the Richmond Office of the United States Trustee Program since May 2020. Prior to joining the United States Trustee Program, Ms. Montgomery was a prosecutor with the Virginia State Bar, serving as Deputy Bar Counsel from 2011 to 2019. In that role, Ms. Montgomery prosecuted attorneys for violations of the Rules of Professional Conduct, proposed and drafted disciplinary procedural rules of court for the Standing Committee on Lawyer Discipline and the Supreme Court of Virginia, presented dozens of CLEs on attorney ethics, wellness and impairment, and co-managed the Office of Professional Regulation, which was staffed by over thirty-five lawyers, investigators, and administrative support personnel. During her time at the bar, Ms. Montgomery handled several attorney disciplinary matters against bankruptcy practitioners in both the Eastern and Western Districts of Virginia. Ms. Montgomery started her career in Virginia as a litigator with McGuireWoods, and more recently practiced with Allen, Allen, Allen, and Allen. Ms. Montgomery was inducted into Phi Beta Kappa at the University of Virginia, where she graduated magna cum laude. She earned her juris doctor degree from the University of Virginia School of Law.

Shannon Morgan is a partner at the firm of Royer Caramanis in Charlottesville, and practices exclusively in the area of consumer bankruptcy, primarily representing Debtors in Chapter 7 and Chapter 13 Bankruptcy proceedings. She is admitted to practice in the state and federal bankruptcy courts of Alaska, Colorado and Virginia. Her practice in both Alaska and Colorado focused primarily on domestic relations after forays into criminal defense, personal injury, and civil litigation. Over time, she developed a small sub-practice in the area of consumer bankruptcy in both states. Upon her relocation to Virginia in 2012, she committed to solely practice under the Bankruptcy Code and has never looked back.

James Reynolds is Clerk of Court for the US Bankruptcy Court for the Western District of Virginia. Prior to becoming Clerk, he was the division manager of the US Bankruptcy Court in the Eastern District of Virginia in Alexandria. From 1992-2014 he was a bankruptcy attorney in private practice representing primarily debtors and chapter 7 trustees. After graduating from William and Mary School of Law he clerked for the Honorable Hal J. Bonney, US Bankruptcy Judge for the Eastern District of Virginia.

Nancy Schlichting concentrates her practice in representing large and medium-sized creditors in real estate disputes, foreclosures, bankruptcies, loan workouts, and collections. Her experience and creditors rights practice extends to all facets of foreclosures, lender liability, bankruptcy and/or difficult collateral. She received her undergraduate degree from the University of Virginia and her law degree *cum laude* from the University of Miami School of Law. She moved back to Virginia in 2004 after 16 years of practicing law with a large commercial firm in Florida. Since then she has continued her creditor's rights practice in addition to estate/trust litigation and corporate disputes including shareholder and partnership disputes, business dissolutions, partition actions and commercial litigation. Mrs. Schlichting has significant trial experience and is licensed in both Virginia and Florida.

Angela Scolforo is the Staff Attorney to Herbert L. Beskin, Chapter 13 Trustee for the Western District of Virginia, where she has worked for 16 years. She has spoken on seminar panels in Virginia and nationally and enjoys learning from and interacting with her peers. Before becoming a Staff Attorney, she represented debtors in consumer bankruptcy cases and a myriad of other clients. She also serves as the Town Attorney for Gordonsville, Virginia. She graduated from the University of Virginia School of Law in 1998, and received a B.A. in English from the College of the Holy Cross in 1987. She is the past Chairman of the Bankruptcy Section of the Virginia State Bar on which she served from 2009 through 2016.

Jerome Turner is the Manager of the Group 4 Insolvency unit of the IRS District Office in Richmond. He began his career with the IRS as a Customer Service Rep in the Accounts Management section of the Wage and Investment Division. In 2008 he became a Revenue Officer, and he has worked in that capacity and as an Insolvency Group Manager for over a decade in Virginia in the Small Business Self-Employed Division. Mr. Turner attended Radford University, where he majored in Psychology with a minor in Business Administration. He became the permanent Manager of the Group 4 Insolvency unit in August of 2019.

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